VO > The PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. It is the autumn of the season on PGA Tour champions. As October moves into November and soon, we will crown a year long champion.

OC > And many of the contenders you'll hear from in the next hour. Hi, I'm Vince Cellini, and this is the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview. It is an exciting time and a real sprint to the finish line as we bring 2022 to a close.

VO > Let's take a look now at the three event playoff schedule. The top 72 players open things in Richmond, Virginia. From there, 54 players will advance to Boca Raton. And finally, a field of 36 will decide things in Phoenix at the finale. The first two stops are 54 holes, then it's 72 holes when we close things in Arizona. The playoffs will be based on a point system, and all three playoff events will provide double points based on their per sizes. Last year it was fire versus ice in a playoff at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. On 18 the first playoff, all between the Doug Baron and Bernhard Langer. Langer played from off the green, set him up with a birdie possibility putting the pressure on Doug. Baron is in a virtual must make situation for par. That one stayed high skimming the edge, opening the door for Langer and the legend continue in a big way. Langer for Birdie and yet another win on PGA Tour Champions.

OC > Make that career win number 42 for the defending champion who is with us now, the well, the all everything on PGA Tour champions, Bernhard Langer. Good to see you.

OC > Nice to see you Vince.

OC > Um, so much to talk about in that event. You became the oldest winner in PGA Tour champions history at age 64. Of all the benchmarks of success that you've had on the tour, where do you rank that one? How proud of you that.

OC > It's it's hard to rank events. It's just kind of cool to do something nobody's ever done before. We all know the statistics show that most winning is done out here between 50 and 55. So when you continue to win and, you know, late fifties and early sixties and especially at 64, it is something very special because it's never been done before.

VO OC > No. And well. And then you do it again. You break your own record this year at the Chubb and win that again. So then you become the oldest winner again. But beyond that, I want to talk about the consistency that you have on tour, and that is at least one victory in every year that you played on PGA Tour champions. And I'm sure that's something that you're also very proud of. How have you been able to maintain that type of consistency?

OC > Yeah, that's a that's a great question. And I have to give a lot of credit to my coach, Willie Hoffman, who passed away about a year ago. But he always said when I was in my late twenties or early thirties, he says, we need to change some things because I want you to play well in your forties, your fifties, your sixties, your seventies. And and I'm thinking, well, I may not even be playing golf then, you know, that kind. And when you're young, you don't look ahead. So we made some swing changes to get away from the reverse, see, which puts a lot of pressure on your back to cover it more, to be more on top of it, which helped me when I had a serious back injury when I was 19 and the Air Force in Germany, a stress fracture, bulging discs. I didn't think I'd still be playing golf in my thirties and forties, and here I am in my sixties. And I think some of that is down to Willie's foresight to help me change my swing, where I don't put as much pressure on my back. And then obviously exercising and stretching has helped me to physically be able to to continue playing golf at this level.

OC > What a great point to be able to look down the road like that and be prepared for that. So we are here in playoff time and you're a six time winner. Nobody's come close of the Charles Schwab Cup. So what will it take to get a seventh? What kind of a path is it going to have to be now this time to try to get another?

OC > I think to try to get a pass, a very good one. And in terms of probably have to win a couple of the playoff events and finish very high. And every every time I tee it up the next few weeks because I'm quite a bit behind. But we do play double points, so there's a chance to make up ground.

OC > Where are these cups situated? In your home in Boca. Are they in display somewhere or are they together or are they periodic? Like when you see one in one room, one in another?

OC > No, they're actually all altogether. There's a gold one, a silver one, a gold one, the silver one since we changed the colors of them. But no, it's there in a nice spot.

OC > At this point in your career on PGA Tour champions. How much of this and this is kind of an esoteric question how much of this is Bernhard Langer against the tour and how much of it is is it against yourself competing with yourself at this point?

OC > It's probably been against myself most of my life. That's at least how I looked at it. You know, I've always tried to get the most out of Bernhard Langer. Be the best that I can be and play against the golf course that I'm playing on. And if I can do the best or near the best I can do and I have the chance to win, I felt and if I didn't, there was very little chance to win.

OC > And I have to ask you, do you think about the all time win, Mark, at all? I mean, how often does that come up? I'm sure you're asked.

OC > It comes up a lot in interviews, but I personally don't think about it that much. I just try to, as I said, play the best round of golf I can every time I go out there.

OC > Is it a goal?

OC > It's become a goal now because it's it's not easy. It's hard to achieve. But you have to set goals. You have to have things in front of you to strive to to work for. And yeah, that's one of them.

OC > All right. Well, will be there when when it happens.

OC > We'll see. We'll see what the future holds.

 OC > All right. Well, at least you'll be prepared. I know that. You'll be ready to go. Bernhard, it's always good to talk with you.

OC> Thank you so much

OC> Best of luck in post season. And that was Mr. Langer on his game. And now here are his peers talking about the PGA Tour champions legend.

OC > He just just doesn't make mistakes. You know, he plays like myself will throw in a three putt here and there or will make a silly bogey for 100 yards. Bernhard doesn't seem to do that.

OC > He's extremely fit for 64. I think that that's about age with anybody and anybody playing golf or any athletic sport, you have to be fit. And he is definitely the statue of that. For sure.

VO OC > He's a grinder. He works very hard on his game. What I noticed over all those years and his thinking on the golf course is great. He doesn't really make stupid mistakes, he doesn't short side himself.

VO OC > And he's so consistent with every part of his game. And I guess he must have a mind that stronger than anybody else's, you know, I mean, he's he doesn't care about, you know, the previous hole or whatever he does. I mean, he's just he's like a machine and I'm all for that.

VO OC >He's a phenomenal. And in the world of golf, the way he plays, the way he handles himself, the way you practices, just doing everything very, very professionally and also to get his body's lost that long. This is incredible.

VO OC > Bernard is a wonderful man, both as both a gentleman and an unbelievable competitor. You know, he's he's grinded out through some tough times of his career, but he's still out there working hard, trying to win.

OC > It's not like it's just out here, like he goes to the Masters and he's beating the young guys. And so it's it's just truly amazing. I don't think people understand how hard it is. What he's doing at his age is just he can't even put words on it.

OC > It's incredible. He'll win again. He'll win again at 65, and then we'll worry about 66 when that comes. But he'll win again.

OC > Can you imagine? I mean, at 64 years of age, you still have the desire every day to get up and work your butt off. Mentally, he is the strongest out there.

VO OC >I think he's reinvented himself three or four times in his career. So to to go through all that just shows a determination he's got to to be where he is with six Schwab Cup titles. Yeah, it's incredible.

OC > The way I look at Burnt Heart is the hell with the golf. He's actually better as a person than he is at the game, and he's great at both.

OC VO > For someone to win the Charles Schwab Cup at 64 years old. Honestly think might never happen again. To have someone come in 14 years into this and still win, it is incredible. And it's and it's been underestimated his achievements.

VO OC > One word to describe Bernard. I got to use more than a word. I think he's beyond Hall of Fame. He is golf royalty.

VO > The all time win mark on this tour seemed unbeatable until Bernhard Langer began his relentless pursuit of the record. Langer remains just two victories away from tying the great Hale Irwin at 45. It has been a wonderful example of consistency and attention to detail as well as the competitive fire within. Thanks to both of these legends for setting the bar.

VO > Still to come on this playoffs, preview the world. According to Darren Clarke on his season his major championship on this tour and state of mind for the playoffs. Big D is next.

VO > Last year in Boca Raton, Florida, in the TimberTech Championship, Steven Alker broke through to win for the first time on PGA Tour champions. With the victory. The New Zealand native earned full playing privileges on tour. He's gone on to add three more wins this season. With that victory, Alker joins some pretty elite company of men who have won the TimberTech Championship. In 2017 Scott McCarron won with an eagle at 18 for his third career win. In 2018. Mark Calcavecchio won in a wire to wire fashion by two strokes for his fourth career win in what currently stands as his most recent win. Three years ago, Bernhard Langer fired a bogey free final round 65 to win by five strokes. His 19 under 197 total remains a tournament record. Darren Clarke won in 2020, although the event was not a part of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. It was Clark's first career win on the senior circuit

OC > And Darren Clarke, who was kind enough to join us now. D It's always good to see you.

OC> You too, Vince.

OC > And I mean any version of you.

OC I don’t know about the late night version

OC > And what I mean by that is what I really like to see. You know, you seems like it's something that you're either working on your mind, your game, your body, where are you.?

OC > Bodies started a bit better.

OC > Where are you right now?

OC > I am working hard. And McGinn, Vince, because this year, this year's been a bit of a challenge. I played obviously I played well at Gleneagles in the senior British, but the rest of the year has been a little bit of a bit of a grind. I haven't really played as well as I wanted to. I've tried to implement a few changes last winter and didn't quite work from and try to get back again. My ball striking hasn't been anywhere near what I would call acceptable, and so it's been frustrating to spend a lot of time working my fat butt off and I'm trying to get it back again, but hasn't quite been there this year.

VO > Well, you mentioned the Senior Open Championship, and that was great because you were able to check that box.

VO > Yes.

VO > PGA Tour champion's major and as a regular open champion, how much did it mean to you?

VO OC > Oh that was huge events, you know, and whenever whenever I was going to play on PGA Tour, European Tour, whatever, all I ever wanted to do was I want to win more tournaments. But the one that I want more win more than anything was the Open Championship. And I was fortunate to do that. And then when I turned 50, the one that I won the win more than any other one was the senior British Open to sort of have both jobs and that dream come true. That's this summer. So it was huge. And then it was strange scenario right after that I had like a month off. Okay, well, what I want to what do I want to achieve? Not what I want to do now. And I was very I was very flat, very, you know, oh what am I practicing for what am I doing? I mean, I, you know, I got my head back into gear and what I'm doing, I want to come out here and I want to win more and play better.

OC > The playoffs are upon us. Yes. I wanted to ask you what the playoffs are like and kind of what your approach is as you go into this kind of sprint.

OC > Yeah, it's a family that I don't try and put any importance on, and Vince is just another tournament for me. We've got three great courses that we're going to play, but if you start thinking about I'd come at any stage in this golf, it doesn't do any good. And in our sport, you know, if you get ahead of yourself, think, well, if I play well this week, I'll play that you want to play well every week. Obviously to play well on the playoffs is even more important, double points and all that sort of stuff. And, you know, push yourself up that chance world ranking is hugely important, but if you put too much importance on it, then that's not really going to help. Certainly not going to help me play any better.

OC > Yeah, but you look around you and you see the guys who are around you. And this is a formidable group.

OC > Oh, yeah.

OC > Of Challengers.

OC > Oh, yes.

OC > So what is it like to be in that mix. Tell folks who may not may not know what it's like to be in that mix.

OC > You know, you got some of the greatest players that have ever played this game. You know, actually in the challenge to you you know you've got Padraig up there pushing the envelope/ Steven Alker up there. You've got Ernie you've got Gucci Jim Furyk you've got so many legendary players, you know, Hall of Famers out here competing on, you know, to get up there and have a chance to compete against them. You know, it's a it's a privilege. And, you know, I'm really looking forward to to try and become better. And that's all those high, high quality golf on I'm a high level of golf pushes me to try and become even better again. So that's what I'm doing that's why I'm on the range every week working working hard and I'm trying to be better.

VO OC > Yeah. And finally, I don't know if I've asked you this before, but how does a lad from Northern Ireland and migrates to the Bahamas

OC > Living the dream, living the dream.

OC > Was that always a dream of yours or was there a moment?

OC VO > You know, our club down on Winding Bay in The Bahamas, the club. It opened in November 2004. We bought our house there in March 2005. And back in those days it might have been one of my more smarter ideas. I haven't had many in my career, but the intention was always to come and play Champions Tour based out of the Bahamas. You know, that's where home would be post 50 and comically on the top of it, because obviously if you look at logistically, it's much easier to to commute in and out of there than it is going back to Ireland all the time. And I come through. So, you know, I get out here as a 54 year old player against got some of the best players in the world winning a little bit. And then an off weeks to go back down to paradise down in the Bahamas. I'm living down there, so drink a bit, fish a bit, play a bit of a good golf practice at bit come back out here for a couple of weeks and go back down there.

OC > In Ireland You can't catch Tarpon.

OC > You can't catch, you can’t catch Tarpon can't catch permit. It's raining as cold as all sorts of stuff. So, you know, if we've got

OC > You had a four Tarpon Day did you not?

OC > Four permit day.

OC> Four a permit day with you?

OC VO > Again, that's another one that's living the dream. So we are both very fortunate. Awesome to have that. You know, we go back down to the Bahamas and that's that's our off week and that's our home. So, you know, it's I'm a very fortunate individual, you know.

OC > No question about it. Darren, best of luck in playoff time.

OC > Thank you.

OC > it's always good to spend time with you. As we leave Darren Clarke, let's hear from some of his. Here is now talking about Darren's game. Oh, there.

OC > He's reinvented himself. You know, I think he's he's sat back, looked at the first 18 months, the way he played and realized, you know, I've got to put some work into to compete with these guys.

VO OC > He's got a fantastic asset in this game is length. He's probably the longest through the air on our tour. And these courses aren't getting any shorter that we're playing. So that's a fantastic asset to have. And if he does drive the ball straight, he's hitting the wedges in. So he's going to win again and again.

VO OC > The thing that stands up for him with Darren is, is how hard he works. I mean, there's no one way out here works as hard as he does. And maybe Bernhard and him are right neck and neck. But that's the thing that stands out most to me. Everything he has earned out here, he's deserved. It's been because of hard work. And and that's what's most impressive about the.

OC > He's always been a big, big part, big personality on the European tour and he's very well liked on the European tour, very liked over here as well. So great guy. I'm very happy for his success.

VO > Much more ahead on this Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview the incredible roller coaster ride of a year. Steve Stricker. We'll discuss the highs and lows and how much we might see of him playoff wise in a moment.

VO > Steve Stricker has been through a lot over the last 12 months, just about a month after serving as the winning 2021 U.S. Ryder Cup, Captain Stricker faced a much greater battle one for his very life. In late October, a mysterious illness gripped his body, starting as a cough and then turning into inflammation around his heart and liver issues that sent him to the hospital. But it was an impressive bounce back to golf. Stricker returned to competition in April, won the Regions Tradition in May. Then added three more wins. It proves Stricker is again healthy and making this tour better with his presents.

OC > Without further ado, Stephen. Charles Stricker joins us now. And a bit of research. A little bit. A little bit. It's always good to see you. And I can't imagine that you've experienced a more bizarre year in golf personally, professionally, the highs and lows, just if you had some time, I'm sure, to process all of this. And when you come through it, does it does it give you a different perspective?

OC > Very much so. You know, going through what I went through last November and December and even into the first part of the year where I was kind of put on hold, you know, I really couldn't do anything based on really my heart condition really. And that's weird to say it that way, I guess, because I feel like I'm a pretty healthy guy and. But yeah, it gave me a totally different perspective on life and everything. Golf, family, which was always good and is and still is good. And then to play well, you know, and then to come out of it, have a chance to win right away and then have wins so far this year. It's kind of mind boggling all that I've gone through, but it's been a neat journey as well.

VO OC > No question about it. And of course, the Ryder Cup captaincy and the victory there. And so I'm not going to bury the lead, but after this kind of a grueling stretch that you've had. What's what's ahead for you, playoff wise or what not?

OC VO > Good question. And Miller standing right over here, you know, the head of the Champions Tour, you know, and, you know, with that different perspective, I'm more than a golfer. I really am. And I was talking to a couple of guys yesterday about it and, you know, I enjoy my fall time. I enjoy being at home. I enjoy my family time. I enjoy chasing white tails. I I'm not in it to chase for the money and necessarily a Schwab Cup, although, you know the competitiveness to me that still burns pretty bright, too. So, you know, I want to do at this point in time in my career, I want to do what I want to do. And and that's being home in the fall is really what I like to do.

OC > Did I hear that you're going to play or not play Yeah. I don't know. I won't bring that up because I guess I was I was listening very closely.

OC VO > Yeah. And I don't know, I've got to tell you, I'm going to go one way or the other, but I know I'm going to be up in a tree. And and if if that if if that happens to play out the way I hope it plays out, then I can maybe play. But I really I've done it in years past and this is always been my case from the very first time I've been on tour. And I think growing up in Wisconsin, being away from the game for a period of three months is what I yeah, it's seasonal and that's what I enjoy and I like to do. And, and that's this time of the year for me coming up And that's the most time the most fun I have is being at home this time of the year.

OC > I'm going to do a little bit of a this is your life for you. But I think your contributions to the game go far beyond wins. The captaincy is for Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup and you're past Payne Stewart Award winner, Charitable Contributions with American Family Insurance. And your family's always been close to the game with you as well. And you talk about how you live your life. And I just wonder that that lifestyle, how much of that does sometimes take the pressure off playing golf? I mean, if you just just the way you kind of live your life.

OC VO > Yeah, very much so. And I and I, I alluded to that earlier. More than a golfer, you know, I mean, I'm going to caddie for my daughter at second stage tour school. My my youngest one is made the state tournament. Go home, watch her. Nicky loves to play. You know, I love being home for that kind of stuff. And so this golf has turned into kind of a secondary thing, you know, especially after what I went through last fall. And, you know, again, that perspective thing. And so it's it's I feel like I'm well-rounded. I want to be home for all those kind of things. I want to partake in those things to be around and then do some of the things like I enjoy doing, you know, and when I was laying there last fall, it's just like, you know, that's the stuff that, you know, you want to do. You want to be with your family. You want to be up in that tree. You know, it doesn't sound good to you may sound great to me.

OC > I get it.

OC > I was up there a couple of times this last week, like, wow, this is this is really cool. So that's the stuff I want to do and that's the perspective I gain from being in the hospital those couple of weeks and you know, and what a better time to do it than when I'm 55 and still able to do it.

VO > When the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs preview returns, a feel good story in the person of Rob Labritz will chronicle his story and Peter Jacobson joins us to handicap the playoff race. Peter's observations include a dark horse. He says win it all.

VO > Earning a weekly spot in a PGA Tour champions field is no easy task. The likelihood of that happening is even more difficult if you've never been a PGA Tour member. Rob Bridge defied those odds last year. The former PGA professional out of the metropolitan section of New York earned one of five tour cards for the season as the medalist. But now he has his sights set on bigger things.

OC > The ultimate goal was to get here and then now to win senior majors.

VO > In Labritz five major starts. He has two top 15 finishes, including a tie for fourth in a U.S. senior open. But top tens are not enough to satisfy the 51 year old. \

OC VO > I have to continue to get better. I've got to continue to work on my short game, continue to work on my bunker, play, continue to work my putting my wedges around the greens, my ball striking. And I don't personally feel like I'm doing great. I'm doing okay. Personally, my goals are pretty high. I've always had that kind of been my driving force. Other people are telling me I'm doing fine. Top players and tell me I'm doing fine. And that means a lot. But internally I still feel like I can improve more. I haven't seen anything yet.

VO > With majors complete for this year. Perhaps things will come together for the Brits as the season draws to a close, and he has his first taste of the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs. Always beaming and ever grateful he is ready to soak it in.

VO > It means a lot to me. And again, I'm a guy who's never experienced it, so I don't know what to look forward to. I'm just playing golf. I'm traveling, seeing these different golf courses and trying to hone. I get my skills on my game so I can hit the ball in the least amount of strokes possible in the whole.

OC VO > It sounds crazy, but that's what I'm doing. I'm learning from all these legends. I mean, there's it's amazing the wealth of knowledge that's just walking up and down the range and talking to guys that you get. So it's a pretty special, you know. So I continue to do this, I keep getting it and I get to continue to improve.

VO > Labritz says he was initially intimidated playing with the former major champions in Hall of Fame members. But due to his good results this season, he now feels he is certainly part of the group. And we agree.

OC > Peter Jacobson is a seven time winner on the PGA Tour. He's a major champion on PGA Tour champions, and he has great perspective as one of the voices on NBC and Golf Channel. I really enjoy the work and what a season we put together here. There are a lot of storylines, a lot of possibilities. I just kind of want to get your big picture taken and what you observe.

OC VO > Well, when you look at this year, you almost have to take it in segments early in the year Steven Alker comes out. He is really one of the individuals in golf that's behind the scenes. A good player traveled the world. He comes out here and boom, boom, boom, boom. He starts winning and dominating. And then obviously Langer is he is the man for all seasons and he's still winning. He's still still on the leaderboard every week. But then we transition to Padraig Harrington, which is a great story in itself. He played on the PGA Tour up to when he turned 50, but he worked on his speed. He worked on his strength, which we can see when he hits tee shots 60, 70 yards by everybody else.

OC VO > And then the other guy that I would throw in there would be Steve Stricker. Steve Stricker is always dominant. He's just fundamentally so he doesn't make any mistakes. I just saw him up on the putting green and I said, do you ever make any bogeys? How can you make a bogey unless it's a mental error or you hit a tree or something and he goes out of bounds?

OC > But so I look at this season, it's it's an enduring it's an enduring story with quite a few different people. And now we're culminating in the playoffs and it's going to be a run to the Charles Schwab Cup.

OC > You know, the first person you mentioned was Alker. And, you know, he's he's a Kiwi, he's from New Zealand. But Peter, it's really kind of an American success story. It's American Dream story, too, isn't it, with him? I mean, can he hold on here in postseason?

OC VO > Well, first of all, he doesn't look like he's 50. That's the one thing he looks like. He's about 38 years old. His golf swing is solid, his every aspect of his game. And it's a it's amazing to me that a player like Steven Alker does not dominate his whole career because he's so fundamentally solid. But it also tells you why the Champions Tour is so great, because a player like Steven who works on his game stays in shape. He comes out at the age of 50 and he's dominating and it's really fun to see.

OC > And that's kind of leading my next question, which was when when people want to hear about what goes on on PGA Tour, champions are like, all those guys are pals, but it's ultra, ultra competitive out there, you know?

OC > Well, we are pals, as you know, guys tell each other they love each other by giving each other a hard time. You know, my wife and her friends, they hug and kiss and say, I love you. Guys out here They like to give the needle and punch each other. But there's so much respect between the players, respect not only personally and what they do in their career, but for their golf game. Everybody has a strength and invariably they have a weakness as well. But when the players dominate, like Langer, like Stricker has done, and now like Harrington and Alker, it's hard to find a weakness, but it's fun, fun and games. During the Pro-Am, first couple of days, guys rekindle their friendships and have fun, but then Sunday Oh yeah, it's serious business.

OC > Yeah. So what would be a sort of the description of the playoffs than being in there, whether it's double points and a lot of things can happen and and everything's amped up a little bit at that point.

OC > I think with the Champions Tour being 54, all events, we all came from the tour where there's 72 holes, a 36 hole cut. So you really want to make sure you're around on the weekend. So you may not do anything heroic or make any stupid moves on Thursday or Friday. Out here, there's no cut and it is a run. It's a sprint. Now, when we get to the playoffs, there is a cut. If you're not in the top echelon of the money list, the Charles Schwab Cup Point list, you're gone. So it's a it's a bit of a combination of the tour being cautious, trying to hold your spot, but also trying to sprint to the end.

OC > This may be a tough one, but do you have a media dark horse or somebody that you're watching from the outside that that maybe could come in there and just upset everything?

OC VO > Yeah, I would say Stephen Ames only because Stephen has had an incredible season, seems to be on the leaderboard every week. He's won. He's ready to break out. And I keep your eye on Stephen Ames. He's got a veteran caddie, Troy Martin. Troy knows this tour and knows these golf courses. He does all the yardage books. So he he's an experienced caddie that helped Stephen and really helps any player. When you have a great caddie, I don't think people really understand how important a caddie is to a good player. They can make a good player. Great. And they can put them in the winner's circle. So my dark, Steve Ames.

VO > We will continue with more of the Charles Schwab Cup playoff preview in a moment. The evolution of Stephen Ames finding his best version on this tour at age 58. Why and how? He'll explain.

VO > Steven Alker finished on top in the regular season. Charles Schwab Cup standings holding off strong finishes by Padraig Harrington and Steve Stricker with the always dangerous Jerry Kelly and steady Miguel Angel Jimenez rounding out the top five. Another successful and entertaining campaign, including the international man, Stephen Ames, who finishes the regular season ninth in the standings, capping a season to be proud of.

OC > Well, many have tabbed this man as dark horse in the playoffs. Coming up, Stephen Ames. And it's good to spend time with you. And I don't know how you feel about that label, but of course,

OC > I’m a dark horse, I'll take it. Yes, I'm a little out of our reach to say.

OC Well, but you know, by any measure, let's start with the season. By any measure, this year you haven't won, but it's been a very, very successful year. Would you say your best on PGA Tour champions?

 OC > Oh, yeah, for sure. Without a doubt. The consistency level is what we all strive for, I guess. I mean, we will all like to play like Paddy and win three times and be top ten every other week or Steven Alker They've both have phenomenal years and that's why they've kind of run away with the show a little bit. As you say, my year has been like, like I said, it's been consistent. I'm happy with the way I've performed and it's, you know, I'm 58. We're still learning and I'm still learning, you know, and those are the things that I've changed this year to be where I am right now.

OC > Well, let's talk about some of those changes. One of them you mentioned to me earlier in the year, and that was your your the physical aspect. How did that go?

OC > I did. I did. More, more, more, more days into it. You know, I say it's hard. There's no doubt about that, because, like, you're just finished doing a five hour pro-am day. I know you're like, well, I want to hit a little couple of balls and that will wait, I've got to throw a workout on there as well. Yeah, it's regimented, unfortunately, and it's not my personality, that's for sure. You know, and the other thing that I've thrown in is I've cut down to two drinks a night during the week of golf. And that is also big. That's very different.

OC > And you and wife Kelly, enjoy the wine.

OC > We do. We enjoy living. Yes. You know, and being that regimented, it kind of takes away the fun aspect of it, especially when you come to places like this. It's like, holy, well, we just want to sit at the deck and have a nice, beautiful glass of wine and enjoy the company.

OC > No question about that. So there's also been another change, I understand, and that is you've gone back to your your own coach, psychologist. Tell me about that aspect.

OC > started with Alan and 2004, which is funny enough, that was my breakthrough year on PGA Tour. I had ten, 11, 11 top tens on a win at Cialis that year and I think I finished eighth in the my list I of recall I think it was that all together and it was like, so we've been working together since the till 11 or 12 and then I stopped and then I decided, you know what, I'm not happy with where things are going. And I gave him a call and he was like, Yeah, well, let's, let's have a chat and see.

OC > What are some of the changes?

OC > The attitude, the mental approach to how I look at things, you know.

OC > Where you tough on yourself.

OC > Some of it was that but it was also the the perception of what I should be doing or what I shouldn't be doing, how how I feel, see things happening. It was a lot of that going on. And then it was like also the fact that you had a bad cell. Why you being so hard on yourself, which is one of the main ones, you know. Yeah. So

OC > Bad shot guy and you know,

OC > That kind of thing and I was like, Why have the attitude right kind of thing? So it's like, you don't know what's going to happen with the next shot. You could hole it. So it's like get all those kind of things that are coming in there again. And so we changed a lot of that stuff. And the consistency part, I would say the majority of it probably is mental.

OC > So, so what about the attitude going into the playoffs now? What do you?

OC > It's the same. You know, it's funny because I've gone through I've gone through the last six years, six, seven years playing out here. And for some reason, it's always comes around this time of the year, the Sioux Falls, Pebble Beach here, that time of the year, I'm like, oh, my God, I am brain dead. Absolutely zonked. And now it's now I've gone there. I'm going through the same cycle again. I'm going, Oh, this is tough. So these things, I have to learn how to get myself out of the rut. And right now I'm, you know, I'm I'm feeling a little refreshed because of the weather's beautiful. It's nice. I mean, I'm not a big fan of Pablo, love Pebble for the views and all that. But the cold weather, the greens, it's really hard on me because I'm not a West Coast guy and never has been a West Coast guy. So those mental things really made it tough for me to play. Now, back here in Florida was beautiful. The weather's nice feeling, fellow rejuvenated, which is nice. But I think overall, I mean, at this stage, at this stage right now, it's icing on the cake. You know, I've had a great year.

OC > Question, so so what would you have to do or what is your plan or would you have a strategic plan going to the playoffs to try to, you know, to maximize what you can do?

OC > I guess at this stage right now, the playoffs, all the points change are all double that. So the higher up you finish when you're playing. So it would be nice if I had the same kind of form going into the playoffs and doubling up on our points. Yeah, we'll move up more and more the less, which is that strategically that is the way you want to do it. And it would be nice if I won one of them. That would be even more double. So that goes from there.

OC > Fantastic.

OC > Exactly.

OC > So what what are the playoffs like? What's it really like when you're in the mix? What is that like?

OC > It's a hunt. Yeah. You know, I think overall, it's like when you're being in contention, you know, the certain flags you wouldn't go out in this case would be like, Yeah, I think I've got to take this on. Yeah. And. Be a little bit more aggressive at things. And if it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. You're in the playoffs, so you kind of have to take the chances and go at things that you normally wouldn't when you're playing the rest of the beginning of the year.

OC > Well, it's been exciting to watch this year, and I wish you the best of luck. I think it could be a lot. You could make a make this really interesting.

OC > It would be nice. Yes, for sure. I like it. I like follow that trail.

OC > And then you can enjoy all the wine you like.

OC > Exactly.

OC > Thanks Stephen, good seeing you.

VO > When the playoffs preview returns. El Presidente. The View from the top.

VO > Take a kiss. What a spot for Jerry Keller.

VO The red hot run continues for Steven Alker. Darren has the double. Miguel Angel Jimenez wins for the the third time this season.

VO > Harrington holds him off.

VO > Stricker wins in dominating fashion. Vintage couples in a rout at the SAS championship.

OC > Spending time with PGA Tour champions president Miller Brady and its let's see appointed to that post back in 2019

OC > so right.

OC > Time has flown. Sort of a self-serving maybe a little bit question but what are you most proud of under your your leadership?

OC > I don't know if I always like self-serving questions. Maybe I'm most proud of most proud of getting through COVID better than we were before. Right. Who would have thought that where we are today as a tour would be better than where we were entering COVID, so pretty proud of that.

OC > Yeah. And you work through something like that and make sure it stayed as smooth as possible.

OC > Right.

OC > Great job. So let's talk about the season. Sure. I cannot imagine a better season in terms of storylines, winners, who's coming down the stretch here in the playoffs. How exciting is this?

OC > Well, look, to me, when you look at the entire season, our tournaments have been fantastic, you know, supported by our title sponsors. But the play among our players is probably as good as it's ever been. Granted, you have a bunch of guys that have won multiple times, but that means that coming down the stretch, it's going to be really exciting.

OC > And, you know, players like Padraig Harrington and a guy who is really come on strong and committed to the tour, this means so much to him, the hard work that he put in. You know, he went to school in that first few events that he played and where he did not play well, sure. Make corrections. And now look at him now.

OC VO > I remember his very first event, Constellation, Furyk and Friends last year. I think his eyes were wide open that, you know, I'm going to have to come out here. I have to work at my game if I want to compete and play well. So he did that. He came into the season this year and has performed a really high level. And one of the things I like best is that as he started to win more. He decided to stay and play more over here as opposed to maybe going back and forth on the DP World tour, which says a lot about us and a lot about our upcoming playoffs.

OC > I think a lot about him, too, and his commitment

OC > And his commitment to this tour.

OC > I'm sure. The playoffs have evolved. Why do they matter more now than ever? You've made the tweaks necessary.

OC > Well, they matter because it's double. We transition two points in the first playoff event, and we do double points. So you could have a guy that's maybe fifth or sixth on the money list that actually has a chance to win the playoffs and win the Schwab Cup if you perform well. So the playoffs matter.

OC > It's interesting to me to see the evolution of PGA Tour champions, you know, for many years. And I think it still goes on a little bit. Players will be hitting their mid-forties, and even before that, they'll say, you know what, I never I'm never going to play on PGA Tour, champ.

That's not for me. Right. But because the cachet of the tour has changed now you see more and more of these guys, they're really anticipating joining this tour. You see that as well.

OC > I think it's a couple of things. They see the camaraderie that's out here and the guys are actually having a fun time. But they also know that it's still very competitive and it gets their juices flowing to get in the mix and to still compete. So it's almost the best of both worlds. And you're able to do it is almost a second lease on life at the age of 50. Yeah.

OC > You see, a guy like Justin Leonard, I saw him not only in the television booth, but then he's in the gym, you know, working on his core. And he's understanding the commitment that you have to him.

VO OC > And they want to see they want to see if they can come back out and compete and enjoy themselves on the golf course again.

OC > So as we wrap up one season, I always have you look ahead.

OC > Sure.

OC > And it should be very strong in terms of membership, sponsorship, scheduling. What what are you looking forward to as we move ahead past the playoffs?

OC > You know, for me, if we start looking towards next year, it's really continuing the momentum from from this year. This year has been so good for our tournaments, for our title sponsors and for our players that we know we're going to continue that trend next year. Our tournaments are only getting bigger and better and more exciting, and that's a great testament to our entire tour and what we're doing as a whole.

OC> Yeah, and I watch how the tour replenishes itself with, with new events all the time. And that's important, isn't it?

OC > Yeah. In fact, you know, we're going to add a new event next year in Palm Springs early in the season. So, you know, we're looking to play 28 events next year. One could say it's too many. One could say maybe it's not enough, maybe it's the right mix. But they're all going to be really, really good golf tournaments.

OC> They are. Always great to spend time with you.

OC > Vince Thank you so much.

OC > Congratulations on a great year.

OC > Thank you.

VO > When the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs preview special continues, a closer look at the first event on the playoff schedule, the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. So stay with us.

OC > For me, it's like right at the pinnacle for my career.

OC > I've been second three times, all second to Bernhard Langer, I believe.

OC VO > The history of the Charles Schwab Cup speaks for itself. You've done very well. When you lift the trophy

OC VO > To be number one at the end of the year, just, you know, you've had a super consistent year, which is it's bloody hard to do.

VO OC > Winning a tournament is not nearly what it's like to actually win a year. That's that's a lot tougher. So it means a lot more

OC VO > It's more difficult than it's ever been to get your name on that. Sure will feel like you've done something really well.

VO > German legend Bernhard Langer has had a tight grip on the Charles Schwab Cup in recent years. However, others have been able to pry it from his hands on occasion. Most recently, Scott McCarron and Kevin Sutherland, sandwiched around Bernard's 2018 achievement. This year, we could see a new champion.

VO > And that will do it for this playoffs preview. Don't blink. It happens quickly as we raced to the Charles Schwab Cup. Thank you for watching. I'm Vince Cellini. Postseason has arrived.